

The Examiner's Amendment mailed on December 24, 2008, inadvertently identified the wrong claim number. A corrected Examiner's Amendment is set forth below.

Upon reconsideration, it was determined that the information disclosure statement filed December 19, 2008, complies with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2). As such, an initialed copy of the information disclosure statement is also included.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Paul Fournier on January 4, 2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 14, line 4, delete "X-ray tube further comprises a".

In claim 14, line 4, replace "electrode deposited" with - -electrode is deposited- -.

In claim 14, line 4, replace "an inner" with - -said inner- -.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 4, and 6-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claim 1, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an x-ray tube for emitting x-rays through a transmission window comprising a glass faceplate, which contains an alkaline ion, having a first major surface at least a part of which constitutes a part of a vacuum inner

space of a closed vessel, a second major surface opposing the first major surface, a through hole communicating between the first and second major surfaces, and an x-ray target arranged in a space defined by an inner wall of the through hole of the glass faceplate, in combination with all the other limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 11, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an x-ray tube for emitting x-rays through a transmission window comprising a single glass body, which contains an alkaline ion, having a hollow part in which at least an electron source is arranged, and a top part which continues from the hollow part and has an opening for defining the transmission window, and a protection electrode provided on a region including an edge of the opening of the top part, the region constituting at least a part of an inner surface of the top part which directly faces inside the closed vessel, in combination with all the other limitations of the claim.

Regarding claim 12, the prior art fails to teach or fairly suggest an x-ray tube for emitting x-rays through a transmission window comprising a closed vessel, a glass main body, a glass faceplate having an opening which corresponds to the transmission window and has a maximum diameter smaller than a minimum diameter of an opening of a metal flange that is attached on an opening edge of the main body, and a protection electrode provided on a region including an edge of the opening of the glass faceplate, the region constituting at least a part of an inner surface of the glass faceplate which is directly exposed inside the closed vessel through the opening of the metal flange and opposes the outer surface of the glass faceplate, in combination with all the other limitations of the claim.

Claims 4, 6-10, and 13-20 are allowable by virtue of their dependencies.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MONA M. SANEI whose telephone number is (571)272-8657. The examiner can normally be reached on M-W 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward J. Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mona M Sanei/
Examiner, Art Unit 2882

/Edward J Glick/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2882